


IDAHO NEWS RELEASE



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Released: June 30, 2003

Spring Wheat Acreage Down while Barley Acreage Increases from 2002

Idaho's spring wheat seedings, at 480,000 acres, are down 9 percent from the 530,000 acres planted in 2002, according to the Idaho Agricultural Statistics Service. This is the least spring wheat planted in Idaho since 1991. Harvested acreage is set at 460,000 acres, a decrease of 50,000 acres from last year. Winter Wheat seedings of 760,000 acres increased 4 percent from the previous year. Harvested acres are expected to total 720,000 acres, up 30,000 acres from 2002. Barley acreage planted is estimated at 760,000 acres, 4 percent more than last year's 730,000 acres. Harvested acreage is expected to total 740,000, up from 710,000 acres harvested in 2002. Acres seeded to oats total 120,000, 4 percent less than the 125,000 acres planted in 2002. Acres harvested for grain are estimated at 25,000, unchanged from last year. The area planted to corn is estimated at 200,000 acres, up 10,000 acres from last year and a record high for field corn planted in Idaho. Corn to be harvested for grain is forecast at 50,000 acres, unchanged from last year. Planted acreage of sugarbeets is estimated at 207,000 acres, down 2 percent from the 212,000 acres planted in 2002. Acres of sugarbeets for harvest are expected to total 206,000, a decrease of 4,000 acres from last year. Dry bean planted acreage is down 16 percent to 80,000 acres planted and 78,000 acres expected to be harvested. Estimates for dry bean acreage include garbanzo beans, which are grown primarily in North Idaho. Idaho farmers and ranchers are expected to harvest 1,500,000 acres of all hay, down 4 percent from last year. Alfalfa hay harvested is at 1,200,000 acres, down 50,000 acres from last year's record high acreage. Other hay is estimated at 300,000 harvested acres, down 20,000 acres from 2002.

For the U.S., winter wheat seeded area is 44.3 million acres, 6 percent above last year. Area harvested for grain is expected to total 36.5 million acres, up 23 percent from last year's recent low. Other spring wheat seedings total 13.8 million acres, down 12 percent from the 2002 total. Growers intend to harvest 13.4 million acres for grain, down slightly from last year. Barley seedings last fall and this spring totaled 5.46 million acres, up 8 percent from the 5.07 million acres seeded a year ago. The area to be harvested for grain is expected to total 4.90 million acres, 18 percent more than last year. Oats seeded for the 2003 crop year totaled 4.68 million acres, down 7 percent from last year's planted area. Growers expect to harvest 2.29 million acres of oats for grain in 2003, 9 percent more than last year. Corn planted area is estimated at 79.1 million acres, virtually unchanged from 2002. Growers expect to harvest 72.0 million acres for grain, up 4 percent from 2002. Area planted to sugarbeets totaled 1.36 million acres, down 5 percent from 2002. Harvested area is estimated at 1.34 million acres, 2 percent below 2002. Dry bean planted acreage, at 1.51 million acres, is down 21 percent from last year. Producers expect to harvest 64.4 million acres of all hay in 2003, slightly below 2002. Alfalfa hay harvested acreage is estimated at 23.5 million acres, up 2 percent from last year.

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